



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FEDERAL SENTENCES HANDED DOWN IN
BURLESON COUNTY-BASED METHAMPHETAMINE OPERATION**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that five Central Texas area residents were sentenced to federal prison for their roles in a methamphetamine distribution operation in Burleson County.

Appearing before United States District Judge Lee Yaekel in Austin on Friday, 37-year-old Loy Eugene Allen, 46-year-old Valerie Jean Raspberry of Brenham, Texas and her husband, 33-year-old Kenneth Lee Raspberry, II, were sentenced to 14 years in federal prison followed by four years of supervised release; Allen's wife, 36-year-old Dawn Marie Allen of Somerville, Texas, was sentenced to 7 ½ years in federal prison followed by four years of supervised release; and Dawn Allen's brother, 25-year-old Jason Andrew Toner of Burton, Texas, was sentenced to 30 months in federal prison followed by four years of supervised release. Each defendant pled guilty to conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine and possession of a firearm in furtherance of the drug conspiracy.

"These sentences should send a strong message that there is a high price to pay for selling drugs in Texas and if firearms are involved in the crime, then even more years will be stacked onto the criminal's time in the federal pen. Criminals are now learning that drugs and guns will land you behind bars for years of federal hard time with no parole," stated U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton.

Between September 2002 and February 9, 2004, the defendants conspired together to manufacture methamphetamine for distribution in Burleson and other surrounding counties. During a traffic stop near Brenham, Texas, on December 6, 2002, officers with the Independence Narcotics Task Force discovered a loaded .22 caliber rifle along with precursor chemicals used to make methamphetamine inside a vehicle driven by Dawn Allen and Valerie Raspberry. Authorities subsequently obtained a search warrant for Allen's residence where they discovered additional precursor chemicals.

On December 5, 2003, officers with the Independence Narcotics Task Force executed a traffic stop also near Brenham, Texas, on a vehicle driven by Loy Allen and Ken Raspberry. Inside the car, authorities discovered precursor chemicals and a propane tank leaking anhydrous ammonia. Authorities subsequently obtained a search warrant for Allen's residence in Somerville, where they discovered Jason Toner and Dawn Allen with methamphetamine, additional precursor chemicals and a loaded, sawed-off .20-gauge shotgun.

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This case was investigated by the Independence Narcotics Task Force consisting of the Burleson County Sheriff's Office, Texas Department of Public Safety Narcotics Unit, Washington County Sheriff's Office and the Brenham Police Department together with the District Attorney's Office for both Burleson and Washington counties. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Doug Gardner.

"This case is a great example of local, state and federal law enforcement working together to make our communities safer places to live," stated Sutton.

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